

Please retitle your testimony using this format: BILL#_Your Name_Position

For example - "HB000_EliannaCooper_FAV" and delete this note once you've done so

Date of Hearing (if you have not gotten an email from staff with the hearing date, please put TBD)

Your Full Name

Your City/Town, State Zip

TESTIMONY ON HB#/SB# - POSITION: (FAVORABLE/FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS/UNFAVORABLE)

Full Bill Name

TO: Chair (**Last Name**), Vice Chair (**Last Name**), and members of the (**Name**) Committee

FROM: **Your Full Name**

OPENING: My name is (**Your Name**). I am a resident of District (**Your District Number**). I am submitting this testimony (in support of/in support with amendments/against) (HB#/SB#), (Bill Name).

Following the above introductory paragraph, in this paragraph you should describe who you are, what school or other organizations you belong to. Share why you care about the bill -- mention your values, personal experience with the issue, professional expertise, etc. that guide your viewpoint.

Use the body paragraphs to more fully present your personal story, how it relates to the proposed bill, and how passing or rejecting the bill will improve the lives of people in Maryland.

What do you think will be fixed/broken by passing this bill? What would have been different, positively or negatively, if this bill had been a law when your personal story occurred? In total, your testimony should be roughly a page, so you don't need to add a ton of detail.

NOTE: *Rebutting opposition arguments draws attention away from the messages and can inadvertently amplify the opposition. Keep your testimony focused on your talking points and not focus on rebutting the opposition's talking points.*

The closing paragraph should reiterate your position on the bill. Explain why you think the bill will be effective/ineffective, outcomes that the bill will achieve, etc. This does not need to be long.

End with: I respectfully urge this committee to return a (favorable/favorable with amendments/unfavorable) report on HB#/SB#.

Testimony writing Best Practices

- The best talking points are clear and concise. Write down everything that you want to touch on, and then pare down to the desired length.
- Think of your points like a great essay. Does the first line hook your listener? Make them care about what you have to say.
- If you could write the headline that comes out of your testimony, what would it be? Say that line.
- The best testimonies include action items. Is it legislation? Is it funding? Identify what would help the issue and end your points with an action.